

332d Air Expeditionary Wing

Balad Air Base, Iraq

Red Tail Flyer

Home of the Tuskegee Airmen

The Legend Continues ...

Volume 2

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May 24, 2004

A message from:

Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld

The reports of detainee abuse by American Soldiers in Iraq are deeply troubling. Those who have not upheld the high standards of our Armed Forces must be held accountable. With honor, the men and women of our Armed Forces must maintain our focus to secure a stable and free Iraq and to win the Global War on Terrorism.

We ask that each of you remember who we are and what we represent. We are Americans, and our actions must uphold the values of our country and the highest standards of professionalism and ethics. Our military code of conduct requires it, our nation demands it, and the world expects it. Our culture of accountability and responsibility will accept nothing less.

As you serve around the world, stand tall. Be proud of what you are doing and make the world a better place. Your nation is grateful for your unwavering professionalism, selfless service, courage and sacrifice.

The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and I are enormously proud to serve with you.



Photo by Master Sgt. Jon Hanson

Staff Sgt. Troy Spear, 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron, puts post cards into bags of school supplies to be given out to Iraqi children.

300 Iraqi kids benefit from generosity

By Master Sgt. Jon Hanson

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

More than 300 Iraqi children from a small village near Balad are now benefiting from a joint Air Force and Army project to repair their school.

This project is just one of the many projects the Army and Air Force are conducting around the area.

Approximately 30 members of the Air Force and Army traveled May 17 to the village to not only dedicate the newly repaired school, but to also hand out school supplies and toys to the children.

Brig. Gen. F.C. Williams, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, and Lt. Col. James Mitnik, 332nd AEW Chief of Plans and Programs, cut a red ribbon across the entrance to the school along with the village sheik and school principal.

Other attendees included the village's junior sheik and two other tribal sheiks, the school staff, the contractor, translators, key 13th Corps Support Command G-5 members and 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces and Army personnel who provided security.

"The Air Force is proud to have been able to provide assistance to help rebuild the school," said General Williams. "The environment here is much more conducive to learning because of the work that has been done. It makes you feel great to be part of it."

"We worked with the G-5 (13th Corps Support Command Civil Affairs) to make a contract to repair the school," said Colonel Mitnik. "The G-5 is the buying and paying agent. We (Air Force) did the paperwork to identify the requirement,

See SCH00L, page 3

Commander's Corner

OPSEC should be held in high regard

By Brig. Gen. F.C. Williams
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Commander

T e a m
B a l a d—We operate in an environment where the information that we have in our possession is vital to the success of the mission and to the safety of those who carry out that mission.



Operational Security helps ensure that information isn't delivered to the wrong hands. The premise of OPSEC is that the accumulation of one or more elements of sensitive/unclassified information or data could damage national security by revealing classified information.

A breach of OPSEC could occur in a variety of situations, however, I want to address three specific areas: e-mail/internet, internal and external articles in the media, and photography.

Today information can shoot across the world in a matter of seconds. The advent of e-mail and internet communications makes it easier for people to gain access to information without delay. In the military these two vehicles of information delivery are key to getting the job

done and communicating with our loved ones back home, but if not used properly, it could be a detriment as well.

When you e-mail home and you let your family know how you're doing, are you releasing information about the number of attacks we've had that day? Do you comment on the variety of aircraft we have flying in out? Or do you paint a picture of the beauty of the countryside right outside the perimeter fence? These may seem harmless to you, but together they have the potential to be classified. Take care in e-mailing friends and family. Make sure that the information you send doesn't unknowingly place the base in danger.

Recently, I read an article where an Airman voiced his concerns about the war to his hometown newspaper. The article was negative toward the military and speculated on future operations that were way above his pay grade. You would think that the Airman was exercising his first amendment right to free speech. But did you know that AFI 35-101, Public Affairs Policy and Procedures, state that *"Each Air Force member or employee of the Air Force, Air National Guard, or Air Force Reserve, has a personal responsibility for the success of the Air Force Public Affairs program ... Active duty personnel and civilian employees must not: Make any commitment to provide official Air Force information to any non-DoD member or agency, including news*

media, prior to obtaining approval through command or public affairs channels.

The AFI instructs you basically to use your chain command. We must stay in our lane and leave that which is not in our lane to the experts. For example, speculating about the future of Iraq and the ability of the coalition to alter that future is a duty reserved for the President of the United States and the Secretary of Defense; it's not our role. Commenting on areas in which you have no involvement and no expertise, could have dire consequences for the war effort and the coalition servicemembers fighting it.

Another issue that could seriously affect OPSEC are photographs. Admit it, most of us own a handy digital camera. These cameras are another way for us to keep in touch with our families. What better way to let your loved ones know that you are fairing well than emailing them a hero shot of you in front of the MiG graveyard. Well some photos can provide information that can give the enemy the upper hand.

Use good judgment when e-mailing and taking photographs. The main question you should ask yourself is, "would I want the enemy to know this information?" If your answer is no, and if you're not sure, then most likely you shouldn't. Why take a chance. If you don't know or are unsure then ask someone.

Service brings core values together

By Maj. James Wenschlag
332nd Expeditionary Communications
Squadron Commander

Before taking command of the 53rd Combat Communications Squadron at Robins, and my subsequent deployment to the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing, I taught classes to the Reserve Officer

Training Corps at Oregon State University. As an ROTC Assistant Professor of Aerospace studies I had the unique opportunity to train and instill values on would be officers. My template for that was the Air Force Core values. They are simple and all encompassing Air Force Core Values:

Integrity First, Excellence in All We

Do and Service Before Self.

Although together they form a set of values we strive for every day, I feel Service is the underlying reason we are here doing what we do. Service is a calling and we are here because we have accepted the call to serve our nation.

See **SERVICE**, page 5

News

SCHOOL, from page 1

and G-5 got three contractor quotes. We (332nd AEW/XP) picked the best qualified contractor, and did quality assurance of the contractor's work.

"This couldn't have been completed without the great work of Capt. Jeff Sutton (332nd AEW Manpower) and Lt. Col. Dave Hildreth (332nd AEW Ground Liaison Officer)," added Colonel Mitnik. "Jeff did all of the paperwork and Dave negotiated the contract with the G-5 and the Iraqi contractor."

The money came from the Commanders Emergency Relief Program. The project cost was \$49,407 for a complete repair of the school, said Maj. Steve Lancaster, 13th COSCOM Deputy G-5. This included putting in new electrical wiring, adding two toilets and two septic tanks, repairing the wall around the school, adding furniture in the principal's office, adding murals on the walls, landscaping around the school and painting the entire school.

After General Williams and Colonel Mitnik cut the red ribbon, the team of Airmen and Soldiers walked in between two rows of excited children who were clapping and expressing their thanks.

The visit not only was to celebrate the work done on the school, but it also gave an opportunity for the group to hand out school supplies and toys sent from the Niceville and Valparaiso, Fla., communities.

Primarily five kids from three different schools organized and did the majority of work raising the supplies, said Diana Reese, who supervised the project.

"The total estimate on all the supplies they sent was over \$10,000 so far," said Mrs. Reese. "They are still collecting and planning to send more."

A lot of time went into this project.

"Between the fundraisers and organizing and packing these bags, I am sure every one of these kids has several hundred hours invested," said Mrs. Reese. "The five main kids gave up entire weekends to raise money to cover shipping and supplies they needed to put the packages together."

Lt. Col. Craig King, 332nd AEW Chief of Safety, who is from Niceville, was especially grateful for their work since his children are able to participate.

"It's pretty cool to be able to show my kids pictures of their donations being placed directly into the hands of their Iraqi counterparts," said Colonel King. "Seeing that sort of thing makes the Iraqi situation, and our contribution to it, seem a little more real back home – hopefully, it's something neither the Iraqi kids nor my own will ever forget."

The project was very rewarding to everyone involved.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Glenn Rogers, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Chaplain, hands out bags of school supplies to Iraqi children at a village near here as part of a humanitarian mission.

"It made us feel so incredibly awesome to bring such surprises to these kids," said 15-year-old Erica, a 9th grade at Niceville High School. "The kids over there are so much like us, yet they have so much less than we do, and that is not right or fair."

"I felt like the trip was really rewarding. How many people can actually say that they helped to open a school in Iraq," said Senior Airman Irene Atkins, 332nd ESFS. "Handing out all the school supplies to all the children was the best part of the (visit). Seeing the smiles on their faces – who can ask for anything more."

"The most memorable part was giving one little boy a bag full of toys and school supplies while his dad stood behind him with joy in his eyes," Staff Sgt. Chester Daffern, 332nd ESFS. "I feel it was very rewarding because we are giving to children that don't have anything."

"I know that we have made a real contribution to winning the peace when we show the local Iraqis that Americans really care about them," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Glenn Rogers, 332nd AEW chaplain. "The happiest moment of this entire deployment (for me) was seeing these children, who are so poor, get so excited about a simple gift like a little stuffed animal."

"People think this war was more about finding weapons of mass destruction, but I always thought it was about giving a better life to the people of Iraq and getting rid of a man who did mean and horrible things to his people," said 12-year old Tim, a 7th grader at Ruckel Middle School. "During this experience I noticed that the children of the school have so little. What we take for granted over here in the states, such as markers, crayons, pencils, paper, just about everything they don't have or have very little of it."

See photos from the visit, page 4

News

Bringing goodwill ...

RIGHT: Two young Iraqi children look at a ball they just received as part of a humanitarian mission to a small village near Balad. Approximately 30 members of the Air Force and Army traveled to the village to not only dedicate the newly repaired school, but to also hand out school supplies and toys to the children.

BELOW: Lt. Col. Craig King, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Chief of Safety, talks with a young Iraqi boy during a humanitarian mission to a small village near Balad.



Photos by Master Sgt. Jon Hanson



News

Weather representative explains desert winds

By Maj. Ann Hollis

332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron

Many people have heard that Iraq gets heavy dust storms. These storms, called Shamals, come from the Arabic word for "North."

Shamals are northerly winds that can occur from May to early September. They occur when strong high pressure sets up over Saudi Arabia (the Saharan High) and a strong thermal trough lies over western Iran.

These winds lift the fine silt in the Tigris-Euphrates valley and carry them downwind up to 150 to 200 miles from the source of the sand. Syria and Saudi Arabia sand ends up in Iraq, whereas Iraqi sand can blow into Kuwait causing visibility to be cut down to ½ mile. The wind lifts the sand up to 5,000 to 10,000 feet so there are flight visibility problems.

During Desert Storm, helicopters

landed with 200 pounds of dust in their fuselage from flying through these dust storms.

The worst conditions occur when the winds reach 35 knots (40 miles an hour) in central Iraq but 25 knots is all it takes in southern Iraq. The Shamals can last one to three days with worst conditions after mid-morning and through the hottest time of the day, lessening during the cooler nighttime hours. The worst winds can have winds of 35 knots blow for five days.

Iraq has sandy areas in abundance. Sand dunes lie to the west of Tallil. In southeast Iraq is an area of marshland drained about 15 years ago that is now a dry lake bed. Also, since dams were built in the mountains in neighboring countries, less river water has flowed into Iraq the last 30 years, making this area dryer and dustier than historical records would show.

Balad has not had a Shamal so far this year. The strong winds were from the south and were due to frontal passage. Later, in the summer, as temperatures increase and fronts from the Mediterranean weaken, the Saharan High becomes stronger and the Shamals are more likely.

Precautions to take during a shamal. Helicopters may need to be moored to prevent being toppled and damaged. Since the Shamals are along the runway heading, there are not strong crosswinds but tail and head winds will be strong. Equipment that should be weighted down need to be taken care of before the Shamals start.

Bring all light-weight items inside, to include radio antennas, the mats around the basketball court, lawn chairs, and garbage cans. Wear goggles to protect eyes and have a bandana to cover the face, nose and mouth. Stay indoors as much as possible.

SERVICE, from page 2

After all, today's military is an all volunteer force. So, already we are displaying the service attribute by our enlistments or our commissions. But to take it a step farther, I would suggest that as leaders, and we are all leaders in one way or another, we have a duty to serve those who follow us.

I had the privilege of serving under a commander some time back that took his role as a serving leader very seriously. I still have the notes I took that first meeting where he laid out his requirements to his officers and NCOs. Number one on the list was "Servitude to your troops." This concept is best described in an article I read published in The Daily Bread.

"Human experience confirms in so many ways that a servant attitude is what sets apart people who have real leadership. One of many examples occurred at Valley Forge during America's war for independence. Three men were trying to lift a heavy

log onto a structure to create a shelter from the powerful winter weather. As they were trying to lift the log, a fourth soldier (a corporal) was screaming at them to lift harder. Another soldier came by and suggested to the corporal that the log was too heavy for them, but it could be lifted if the corporal helped. The corporal was indignant, "I am a corporal. I refuse to help them. If you think they need one more man, you help them." The stranger did help, and told them if they needed further assistance they could call him at headquarters. The helper was General George Washington himself!"

We are all in a unique situation here; deployed to a fairly austere location, making sacrifices every day, and like George Washington's men, building our shelters, workcenters, and missions. The numerous details and sandbagging crews are all necessary for our existence just as building the shelter was at Valley Forge.

George Washington realized that service before self started with those put in his charge and demonstrated that to his men. I have seen examples of this here at Balad as well. We have a number of Guard and Reserve Airmen here who have taken a "break" from their jobs at home to serve.

One in particular has put his calling as a teacher aside for a short time to serve alongside his troops pulling communications cable in ditches. It is a tough, dirty job but he displays his spirit to serve his country and his Airmen with joy and excitement while leading his troops.

Another example was when we had the call to build sandbags. I saw a number of Senior NCOs and Officers working alongside the Airmen toward a common goal. That small gesture is what sets a serving leader apart.

In this environment we have an opportunity to find out what kind of leader we are. George Washington, an American hero, was willing to be a servant to his troops. What kind of leader are you?

Feature

WGMs -- your solution to computer woes

By Master Sgt. Todd Thomas

332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron

There are more than a 1,000 computer systems on base when you count all connected assets to the central network and linked worldwide for mission-essential operations in the AOR.

With all these systems running there is bound to spring up a problem or two. Who do you call when your system goes down? If you thought help desk, think again.

Workgroup managers, or WGMs, are the vital link between all organization computer systems and the communications help desk. The help desk is more than happy to help all people with computer trouble shooting. However, if everybody were to call the help desk when a computer problem took place it could take several days to correct a computer issue.

For this reason the Air Force implemented the WGM program. These folks are what civilians call information technology experts.

Now instead of calling the help desk to get a trouble ticket your local workgroup manager can correct the problem within a matter of minutes – no phone calls, no trouble tickets, no waiting for hours for somebody to show up. They can normally find the solution within minutes. On Balad Air Base each organization has designated at least one workgroup manager.

Most folks are filling this capacity as an additional duty, however, in some cases it turns out to be a full time job.

“There is always something wrong somewhere and it needed to be fixed yesterday,” said Tech. Sgt. Kelly Madsen, of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing command section, who said her most unusual problem was trouble shooting a color printer by reading tons of manuals, going on line and even calling the help desk. No one had an answer for her, so she did the next best thing, took out the cartridge and cleaned the tons of dust out and it worked.

Staff Sgt. Eddie Howard, of the Fire Department supported 120 Army and Air

Force customers at one point in his rotation. Sergeant Howard said, “I have had to troubleshoot over 540 computer problems throughout my assignment, averaging four to five a day.”

About 75 percent of workgroup managers on Balad are filling this role as an additional duty. Next time you hear a controlled blast come across the speakers imagine that could be Staff Sgt. Israel Delgado who works as a workgroup manager for the explosive ordnance disposal flight.

“Just recently I had to restore a 1.5 gigabyte personal folder for somebody,” said Sergeant Delgado who wishes that could have been a controlled blast.

Ever wonder how your bank gets notified of your check cashing here at Balad? Staff Sgt. Matthew Smith of finance, who not only dealt with millions of dollars in expenditures for Balad, also worked as a workgroup manager and fixed 90 computer issues.

— See WGM, page 7

Making light work of it ...

Vehicle Maintenance Specialist Staff Sgt. Clinton Miller cleans up a weld with a side grinder while repairing the front end of a forklift. Sergeant Miller is deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, from Elemendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Keith Brown

Feature

WGM, from page 6

Ah, you're finally cleared to leave Balad (Yes!), but wait a minute, where's your flight clearance to get on the rotator to Al Udeid?

Tech. Sgt. Lorenzo Rehberg, of the air terminal operations center, made it happen for all departing personnel here at Balad. "I support the Global Air Transportation Execution System (GATES), Global Decision Support System (GDSS) along with other multiple Microsoft office programs to update daily flight schedules," said Sergeant Rehberg whose service as a workgroup manager touched every person leaving Balad via aircraft by keeping computer systems in touch with Air Mobility Command systems throughout the world.

The workgroup managers on Balad come in all sorts of ranks and experience from Airman 1st Class to even a Lieutenant Colonel. As you can read, the workgroup managers are diligently working to keep all computer systems on Balad operational so the mission doesn't fail. So the next time you ask for computer assistance from your workgroup manager, thank them for the hard work and perseverance they do to keep your systems operational.



KNOW WHAT THIS IS?

Each week, the *Red Tail Flyer* staff will take a photo from around Balad AB. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at: redtailflyer@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil with "Identify This" in the subject block. The person who sends in the correct answer first will receive a prize and have their name printed in the Red Tail Flyer. The last item was an outdoor cable cover.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Prentice Colter

Pushing pounds ...

Staff Sgt. Caleb Ethride, 64th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, bench presses 375 pounds while Staff Sgt. John Griffin, also of the 64th ERQS 'spots' him during a bench pressing competition May 15. Staff Sgts. Ethride and Griffin are combat search and rescue pararescuemen from the 38th Rescue Squadron out of Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

Trickfoot



Location: **Sustainer Theater**

Date: **TODAY** **TUESDAY**

Time: **7 p.m.** **7 p.m.**



Feature

Man On The Street

“What would you do for a Klondike bar?”



Senior Airman Courtney Lalla,
332nd MDG/CASF
“I would walk to the BX and back in 100 degree weather.”



Staff Sgt. Ryan Wildermuth,
332nd EACS
“I would easily do 50 push ups.”



Staff Sgt. Lucio Reza,
332nd ECES/Electrician
“I would work all day pulling wires on the towers.”



Army Spc. John Whinery,
332nd EOSS/ATC
“I wouldn't do anything for a Klondike bar, but I would do almost anything for a McDonald's Extra Value Meal.”



Staff Sgt. Claude Bailey,
332nd ELRS/TMO
“I would paint buildings on my day off.”

Around Balad

People in your neighborhood

Staff Sgt.

Jeremy Ketchum

Home station: Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska

Unit: 332nd AEW/SE

Arrived in the AOR: March 8

Family: Married with two sons, a daughter and a dog.

Hobbies: I enjoy salmon fishing and bowling.

How do I contribute to the mission? As the ground safety manager, I ensure all proper safety measures are taken at base facilities.

What is my favorite aspect of this deployment? The challenge of improving the wing's safety program.

Besides my family, what do I miss back home? I miss grilling out during any season.



T-Town Chapel

Protestant service

Sunday

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Service

5:30 p.m. - Traditional Service

Monday

7 p.m. - Purpose Driven Life

Wednesday

6:30 p.m. - Choir practice

8 p.m. - Bible Study

Friday

6:30 p.m. - Choir practice

8 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

Catholic service

Sunday

Noon - Mass

Tuesday

7:30 p.m. - Mass

Friday

5:30 p.m. - Mass

LDS service

Sunday

7 p.m. - Sacrament meeting

Thursday

7:30 p.m. - Family Home Evening

All Denominations

Nightly

9 p.m. - Evening Prayer for Peace under the Stars



Chaplain Porter

Public Health Note

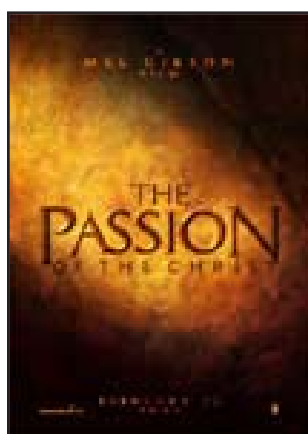
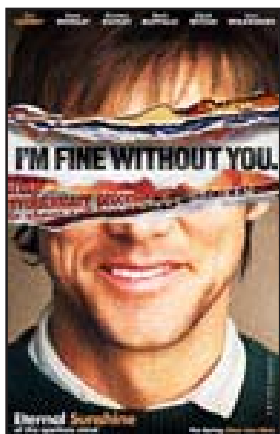


"Public Health Note" is a column that answers frequently asked Public Health questions. To submit questions send them to Kevin.Berkel@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil or Lawrence.Noel@BLAB.aorcentaf.af.mil.

Q: About the mess ... I'm sure we've all noticed it, mumbled some comments to ourselves, but never really said anything to anyone the mess that's often left in the latrine trailers.

A: Most of us were raised in some type of environment where we knew clean from dirty – we had to clean up after ourselves. It may be a convenient excuse to just forget everything we learned growing up or practice at home, but leaving discarded towels, clothing, and other items in and around the shower stalls is plain disgusting. Leaving empty containers of toiletries, disposable razors, and the like is likewise disgusting. Damp and dirty items provide a great growth media for molds and other less than desirable bacteria. When you're done with your shampoo bottles, old razors, etc., please discard them appropriately. To save space in the trashcan, please crush your empty water bottles. Remember each of these trailers is not your personal trashcan. In addition to picking up after yourselves (and sometimes others), please take the time to wash your hands.

Sustainer Movie Schedule



Today

- ☐ No Movie
- ☐ Brickfoot band — 7 p.m.
- ☐ No Movie

Wednesday

- ☐ The Passion of Christ — 3 p.m.
- ☐ Van Helsing — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Spotless Mind — 9 p.m.

Friday

**Schedule
Not
Available**

Tuesday

- ☐ No Movie
- ☐ Brickfoot Band — 7 p.m.
- ☐ No Movie

Thursday

- ☐ Scooby Doo 2 — 3 p.m.
- ☐ Spotless Mind — 6 p.m.
- ☐ Van Helsing — 9 p.m.

Saturday

**Schedule
Not
Available**

Come listen to the Rock and Roll sounds of Brickfoot, May 24 and 25 at 7 p.m. in the Sustainer Theater. For more information contact the 332nd Services Squadron at 458-1145

The Red Tail Flyer

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All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

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